

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 139341

EXDIS, BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GENSCHER, MAY 30

1. AT A ONE-HOUR BREAKFAST MEETING MAY 30 THE SECRETARY BRIEFED FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN SALT, AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE TWO MEN ALSO DISCUSSED MBFR AND WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT THAT A DATE SHOULD BE FIXED FOR A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ONLY IF THERE WERE REAL PRIOR PROGRESS ON DATA. GENSCHER SEEMED TO HAVE NO CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT THE FRENCH WERE TRYING TO DO -- ESPECIALLY TO MBFR -- WITH THEIR NEW PROPOSALS FOR A EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. THEY

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AGREED THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT FOUR POWER FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS IN PARIS AND BONN. THEY ALSO AGREED TO PUT ON THE AGENDA OF THESE MEETINGS THE QUESTION OF AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR NEGOTIATION OF GREY AREA SYSTEMS.

2. GENSCHER UNDERLINED THE ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED

TO THE PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO GERMANY. HE URGED THAT ENOUGH TIME BE ALLOWED IN THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE FOR "INTENSIVE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS" AND EXPRESSED HIS STRONG HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD AGREE TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH THE LEADERS OF THE FOUR POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN

THE BUNDESTAG. THE SECRETARY AGREED THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA.

3. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, GENSCHER RETURNED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO THE INDIVISIBILITY OF THE AREA OF THE ALLIANCE, THE INDIVISIBILITY OF SECURITY. HE HOPED THE PRESIDENT WOULD STRESS THIS THEME IN HIS ADDRESS TO NATO AND IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN GERMANY. HE SAID EVEN ONE CLEAR SENTENCE FROM THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE AN ENORMOUS POSITIVE IMPACT ON EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION, COUNTERING PERSISTENT FEARS OF DECOUPLING.

4. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FRG'S ASSUMPTION OF THE EC PRESIDENCY ON JULY 1, GENSCHER SAID HE INTENDED TO ENERGIZE THE PRESIDENCY, INTENSIFYING EC POLITICAL COOPERATION AND US-EC CONSULTATION ON EXTRA-EUROPEAN ISSUES SUCH AS AFRICA AS WELL AS ON STRICTLY BILATERAL ISSUES. HE RECALLED THE GOOD EFFECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE EC IN JANUARY AND HOPED THE PRESIDENT WOULD SOON FIND ANOTHER PUBLIC OCCASION TO STRESS THE THEMES HE DID THERE.

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5. NOTING THAT HELMUT KOHL WOULD SOON BE VISITING THE US, GENSCHER MADE AN EXTRAORDINARY PERSONAL APPEAL FOR THE PRESIDENT TO RECEIVE KOHL, EVEN IF ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES. HE DESCRIBED KOHL AS THE HEAD OF "THE STRONGEST POLITICAL FORCE" IN THE FRG, A FORCE THAT SUPPORTS NOT ONLY THE GERMAN STATE, BUT CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE US AND A STRONG NATO. IN THIS REGARD, HE CONCLUDED, HE WOULD FEEL HIMSELF REPRESENTED BY KOHL, AND THAT, HE ADDED, WAS A LOT TO SAY OF SOMEONE IN THE OPPOSITION. THE SECRETARY AGREED TO BRING HIS REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION. VANCE

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